THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) At present, uranium is being recovered from the uranium deposits at Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwapahar in Singhbhum District, Bihar, and also from the copper tailings of the copper mine in Singhbhum District, Bihar. Thorium as a part of monazite, is found mainly in the beach sand deposits of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Orissa & Andhra Pradesh. It is not in the national interest to disclose information about the production of uranium and thorium in the country.

(b) and (c) Uranium mineralisation was located at Sonrai-Pisnari, Lalitpur Dist., Uttar Pradesh. However, a detailed information indcated that it is not technically feasible and economically viable for mining/exploitation.

Uranium deposits occur at the following places in the country:

Place	District
Jaduguda Bhatin Narwapahar	Singhbhum Dist., Bihar
Turamdih Mohuldih Bagjata Garadih Kanyalika	Singhbhum Dist., Bihar
Domiasiat	West Khasi Hills Dist., Mghalaya
Lambapur	Nalgonda Dist. Andhra Pradesh
Tummalapalle	Cuddapah Dist., Andhra Pradesh

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Two units of 100 MWe Light Water Reactors are proposed at Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu with technical cooperation and financial assistance from the Russian Federation. However, these would not be installed during this annual plan (1997-98).

[English]

Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Scheme

150. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission propose to transfer 179 Centrally sponsored schemes to the States for their direct implementation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto and the steps taken to ensure proper utilisation of the funds provided by the Central Government for these schemes;

(d) whether any complaints regarding diversion of the funds by the State Governments from one scheme to another have been received earlier; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard and time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (e) An exercise was done in Planning Commission on the question of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the States. A note on the subject was sent to concerned Central Ministries/Departments and all States/UT Governments for their comments. Based on the replies received a revised note on the subject is being prepared for the approval of the Full Planning Commission and National Development Council (NDC). In line with the Approach Paper, a process of joint plan formulation and joint monitoring would also be evolved between the Planning Commission, Centraly Ministries/Deptts. and the State Governments.

[Translation]

Treatment Schemes for Various Diseases

151. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes under which assistance is being provided to the people living below poverty line for the treatment of cancer, kidney and heart ailments and other incurable serious diseases;

(b) the amounts provided to each State under these during the last three years; and

(c) the estimated number of parsons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) A Statement explaining the schemes (a) NIAF (b) Health Minister's Discretionary Grant, is enclosed.

(b) The details of the releases made by the Ministry under the various schemes are as under:

(i) *Illness Assistance Fund* :

This fund has been created in 1996-97 and the grants released to the State Illness Assistance Fund are as follows:

Name of States	Funds released
Karnataka	Rs. 5 crores
Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 5 crores
Tripura	Rs. 2 crores
NCT of Delhi	Rs. 50 lakhs

(ii) *Under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant:*

The grant is not released to the States but to the hospitals where the patients are taking treatment/propose to take treatment. The amounts sanctioned during the last 3 years are as follows:

Year	Amount Released
1994-95	Rs. 9.63 Lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 29.97 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 44.06 lakhs

(c) The number of persons benefited from the schemes are as follows:

(i) *Under Illness Assistance Fund* :

State	No. of Persons benefited
(i) Karnataka	1114
(ii) NCT of Delhi	35
(iii) Madhya Pradesh	NIL
(iv) Tripura	NIL

(ii) *Under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant* :

Year	No. of persons benefited
1994-95	104
1995-96	257
1996-97	366

STATEMENT

(a) *National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF)* has been set up vide Ministry of Health & F.W. Resolution dated 13.1.97 which has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) Part I Section-I [No. 9]. It has provided in this scheme that every State/UT (with Legislature) may set up an Illness Assistance fund which shall be a registered society. The donation received by this society from State Govt./UT Admn. will be supplemented by a Grant in aid from Central Govt. to the extent of 50 per cent of the contribution made by the State Govt./UT subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 crores for States which have a large proportion of population living below poverty line and Rs. 2 crores for other States./UTs. The poverty line shall be as defined by the Planning Commission. The fund could also be subscribed by individuals, corporate bodies and other National/International philanthropic organisations. The contribution received by this fund would be exempt from payment of income tax under Section 80(G) of Income tax Act. The accounts of the society would be audited by AG of the State/UT every year.

This fund would release financial assistance to patients below poverty line in India suffering from life threatening diseases for undergoing medical treatment of any of the superspeciality Hospital/Institutes or other Govt./Private Hospitals Participating in the scheme. The assistance will be in the form of a one time grant which will be released to the Medical Superintended of the Hospital, in which the treatment has been received.

A provision of Rs. 25 crores has been made in the budget grant of Ministry of Health & F.W. during 1996-97 for release of grant in aid to State/UT. A similar amount has been provided in the 1997-98 budget also but subsequently reduced to Rs. 15 crores.

It has also been decided that National Illness Assistance Fund should be set up with an initial donation from Ministry of Health & F.W. of Rs. 5 crores. This fund would also be subscribed by individuals corporate bodies and Non-corporate bodies. The contribution made to this fund will also be exempt from payment of Income-Tax under Section 80(G) of Income Tax Act. The management Committee of NIAF will be chaired by Union Health Minister. The NIAF will be a registered society and its accounts will be subject to audit by C&AG every year.

Whereas the quantum of financial assistance to a poor patient is less than Rs. 1.5 lakhs, the release will be done by the fund at the State/UT level and if the quantum of assistance is in excess of Rs. 1.5 lakhs in an individual case, the case will be recommended to NIAF at the Centre.

NIAF will decide about budget outlay for grant of similar assistance to be released to such population living in the UTs without legislature.

(b) *Health Minister's Discretionary Grant :*

Assistance is provided to the poor patients to meet a part of their medical expenses on specialised treatment.

The financial assistance is limited to Rs. 20,000/- in each case.

[English]

Visit of US Delegation

152. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US delegation visited India in the month of October, 1997 and had discussion with various leaders of India;

(b) if so, to what extent the talks were successful;

(c) whether US offered selective Membership to India in U.N.;

(d) whether Pakistan firing at Jammu and Kashmir border and Pakistan's involvement in creating and helping terrorist in the State were also discussed; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. The US delegation led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering visited India in October, 1997. The delegation held discussions at Official level and called on PM and Finance Minister.

(b) The talks were very successful in the context of a broadbased integrated and forward looking dialogue with the US touching upon bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues.

(c) Expansion of the UN Security Council was also discussed. The US side clarified its position of supporting Germany and Japan and three other nations from the developing countries as permanent members. We made clear our position, stressing the need for a non-discriminatory approach and the need for evolving criteria for permanent membership of UN Security Council.

(d) and (e) The attention of the US leadership was drawn to Pakistan's continuing support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India and unprovoked firing by Pakistan across the Line of Control and the International Boundary in Jammu & Kashmir. The US side has conveyed that they took a serious view of terrorist activities. The US government recently declared the Pakistan based organisation Harkat-ul-Ansar as a terrorist organisation under US law. The talks helped to create a better mutual understanding of ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation as also of each other's perceptions on important regional and international issues.

Wage Structure in Sugar Industry

153. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the wage structure for the people employed in the sugar industry;

(b) if so, the approximate number of people employed in the sugar industry in the country, State-wise;

(c) the rate at which the wages are fixed per worker per day/per month; and

(d) the details of the proposed revision of wage structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Government has constituted a Tripartite Industrial Committee on Sugar Industry on 3.10.97 consisting of representatives from Central Government, State Governments employees' and employees' Organisations. The Committee, inter-alia, will look into the wage structure of employees working in Sugar Industry.

(b) The State-wise details of employment in Sugar Industry are not available. However, as per available information, the total number of employees as in the year 1994-95 were 3.805 lakhs.

(c) The workers in the Sugar Industry are generally governed by the provisions of the recommendations of the Wage Board. The details regarding rate of wages per worker per day/per month are not maintained.

(d) The Committee has not so far given any recommendations on the wage structure in Sugar Industry.

Regional Research Institute for Ayurveda

154. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Regional Research Institute for Ayuveda situated at Trivandrum, Kerala and to shift the same to other place;

(b) if so, the circumstances led the Government to take such decision and the place where it is proposed to be shifted;